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▷ JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MOVES AGAINST BOOK BY EX-CIA MAN
Acting at the behest of the Justice Department, a Federal judge last week issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the publication of a book or articles by Victor L. Marchetti, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and author of the novel "The Rope Dancer" (Grosset & Dunlap) published last fall. Marchetti, who resigned in 1969 after 14 years with the CIA, said he has a contract with Alfred A. Knopf to write a nonfiction book about the agency and that it is this book--which he has not yet begun to write--which is the target of the government injunction. "This is the first time to my knowledge that the government has tried to take action against a book that hasn't even been written," Marchetti told PW. "This is a perfect example of the paranoid, clandestine mentality that sees bad guys under every desk." In its complaint, the government declared that "there is substantial likelihood that this book will divulge currently classified information relating to intelligence sources and methods, the disclosure of which would violate the terms and conditions of the defendant's secrecy agreement and result in grave and irreparable injury to the interests of the United States." (When a person joins the CIA, he is required to sign a "secrecy agreement" asserting he will never divulge classified information, even after he leaves the agency.) Melvin L. Wulf, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing Marchetti, told PW that "This is an extraordinary act by the government. It's the 'Pentagon Papers' all over again. The government has fallen into the dangerous habit of using injunctions to invade the freedom of the press." Ernest Tidyman, who has just won an Oscar for his screenplay, "The French Connection," has purchased an option to make "The Rope Dancer" into a movie. Its plot concerns a disenchanted agent who falls out with his agency because he feels it is out of step with the times.

▷ CROWELL COLLIER TO PUBLISH SOVIET ENCYCLOPEDIA
"The Great Soviet Encyclopedia," a 30-volume reference work of Soviet scholarship, will be published and marketed in the West by Crowell Collier & Macmillan. Details of the multi-million dollar deal were made public jointly last week by CCM and the Soviet Embassy in Washington. Raymond C. Hagel, chairman of CCM, said the first five volumes of the English edition are scheduled to appear in 1974, with the balance published serially until completion in 1979. The English edition, copyrighted by CCM, will cost somewhere between \$500 and \$1,000 per set, the usual price for scholarly encyclopedias. The current edition, the third, replaces the heavily doctrinaire second edition, printed during and immediately after Stalin's lifetime. The first edition, which came out in the 1920s, contained so much propaganda that it is believed to have provided George Orwell with some of the inspiration for "1984," in which the hero, Winston Smith, who works for the Ministry of Truth, must rewrite history daily in order to conform with the constantly shifting party line. Spokesman for the Soviets in the deal was Vladimir S. Alkhimov, vice minister of foreign trade, who said, "I sincerely hope that the publication of the English version of 'The Great Soviet Encyclopedia' will help many readers in the United States and other countries to gain a better understanding of the life of the Soviet peoples and our viewpoints on major internal and international events." The elaborate announcement ceremonies at the Washington Hilton Hotel were briefly disrupted by a young woman who said her sister is now in a Soviet prison for "possession of Hebrew books." She later told reporters her protest was part of a continuing campaign against the mistreatment of Soviet Jewry by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

MORI/CDF